

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Impact Calculator uses the Defra metric to calculate the biodiversity units of a site both before and after any proposed development; this reveals if the development is likely to cause no net loss, net loss or net gain to biodiversity.

It is a transparent metric used to quantify the value of biodiversity at any site and can form an evidence base on required mitigation and on-site compensation of a development, the amount of residual biodiversity impact and, if necessary, the amount of off-site compensation required through a 'biodiversity offsetting' scheme.

These principles are in line with the Natural Environment White Paper and are set out in the National Planning Policy Framework:

"The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

"If significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused."

The Calculation Assumptions

The metric scores the value of the site before and after development. For the site at Watton Road which is pre-planning and does not have detailed External Works and Landscaping proposals the tool is used to assess the broad parameters of the proposal which amounts to a residential development of aprx 6 hectares on what is previously arable fields. The site proposes an additional area of arable fields to be planted as broadleaved woodland. For the purposes of this calculation areas of green open space, planting and habitats within the residential site have been excluded to focus the assessment on the value of the new Woodland proposed.





BIODIVERSITY IMPACT CALCULATION

Land Opposite Hingham Sports Centre, Hingham, Norfolk

February 2021



Registered Office
60 Norwich Road
Stoke Holy Cross
Norwich, NR14 6NX

Norwich Office
Office 14, Ber Street Central
125 Ber Street
Norwich, NR1 3LY

Land Opposite Hingham Sports Centre		
Headline Results		
Return to results menu		
On-site baseline	Habitat units	40.80
	Hedgerow units	3.28
	River units	0.00
On-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation, enhancement & succession)	Habitat units	66.45
	Hedgerow units	5.36
	River units	0.00
Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Off-site post-intervention (Including habitat retention, creation, enhancement & succession)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00
Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)	Habitat units	25.65
	Hedgerow units	2.08
	River units	0.00
Total net % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat creation + retained habitats)	Habitat units	62.87%
	Hedgerow units	63.40%
	River units	0.00%

Figure 2. Calculation Headline Results

Conclusion

The Biodiversity calculator shows a net gain biodiversity increase of 63% with delivery of this scheme. In practice this is likely to be even higher when gardens, open space and other green features within the residential site are accounted for.

Policy References

- *GNLP Policy 3. Development proposals will be required to conserve and enhance the natural environment (including valued landscapes, biodiversity including priority habitats, networks and species, ancient trees and woodlands, geodiversity, high quality agricultural land and soils)*
- *GNLP Policy 3. In addition, development will deliver net biodiversity gain through the provision of on-site or off-site natural features, creating new or enhancing existing green infrastructure networks that have regard to and help to achieve the local green infrastructure strategies. It will need to be demonstrated that the gain to biodiversity is a significant enhancement (at least a 10% gain) on the existing situation.*
- *GNLP Comment 210*
Reflecting the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the NPPF places great weight on protecting and enhancing Greater Norwich's rich natural environment. It seeks to ensure that development not only avoids harm to natural environmental assets, but also encourages a local plan policy approach which actively protects, promotes and enhances biodiversity, so that development results in biodiversity net gain.
- *NPPF 8. Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):*
c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity
- *NPPF 70. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:*
d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- *NPPF 174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should:*
b) promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity

On-site baseline	Habitat units	40.80
	Hedgerow units	3.28
	River units	0.00

On-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation, enhancement & succession)	Habitat units	66.45
	Hedgerow units	5.36
	River units	0.00

Off-site baseline	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00

Off-site post-intervention (including habitat retention, creation, enhancement & succession)	Habitat units	0.00
	Hedgerow units	0.00
	River units	0.00

Total net unit change (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)	Habitat units	25.65
	Hedgerow units	2.08
	River units	0.00

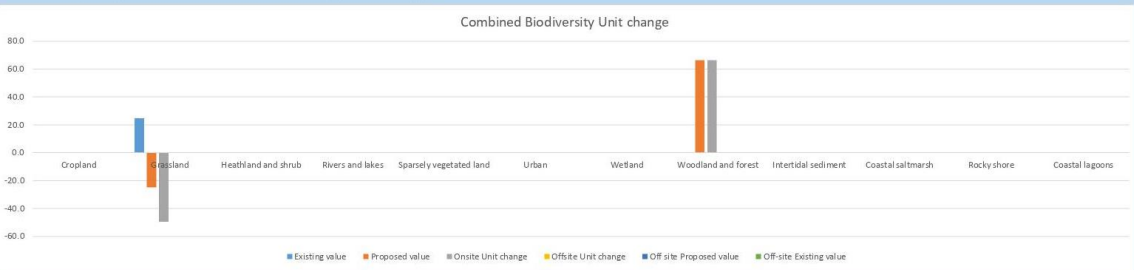
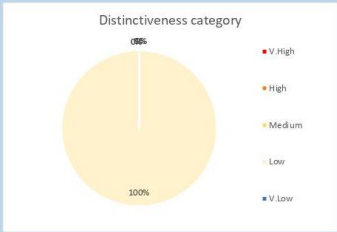
Total net % change (including all on-site & off-site habitat creation + retained habitats)	Habitat units	62.87%
	Hedgerow units	63.40%
	River units	0.00%

Summary Figures

Net project biodiversity units (including all on-site & off-site habitat retention/creation)	Habitat units	25.65
	Hedgerow units	2.08
	River units	0.00
Total project biodiversity % change (including all On-site & Off-site Habitat Creation + Retained Habitats)	Habitat units	62.87%
	Hedgerow units	63.40%
	River units	0.00%

On-site habitat retention and enhancement			
	Habitats	Hedgerows	Rivers
Total site area / length	10.20	0.66	0.00
Total site units	40.80	3.28	0.00
Area / length retained	0.00	0.61	0.00
Units Retained	0.00	3.08	0.00
Area / length enhanced	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baseline units enhanced	0.00	0.00	0.00
Area / length succession	4.00		
Units succession	16.00		
Area / length lost	6.20	0.05	0.00
Units lost	24.80	0.20	0.00

Lost by distinctiveness		
Category	Area lost (hectares)	Area lost (%)
V.High	0	
High	0	
Medium	0	
Low	6.2	100
V.Low	0	

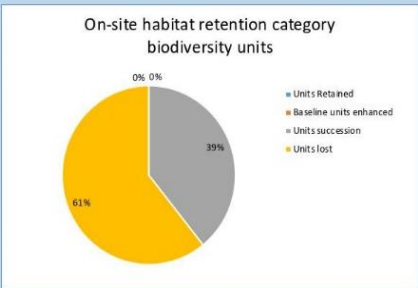
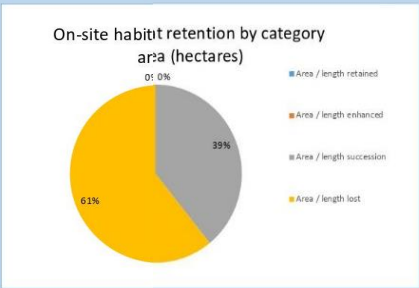
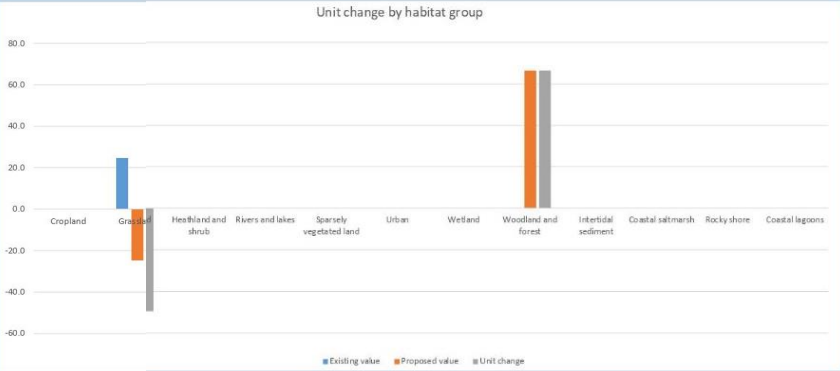
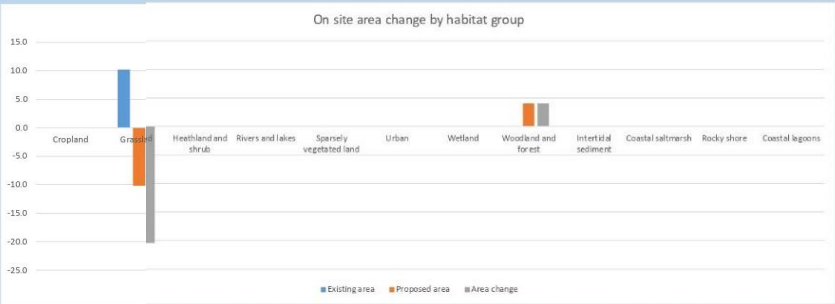


On-site	Baseline		Post development on site		Onsite Change	
	Existing area	Existing value	Proposed area	Proposed value	Area change	Onsite Unit change
Habitat group						
Cropland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grassland	10.2	24.8	-10.2	-24.8	-20.4	-49.6
Heathland and shrub	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rivers and lakes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sparsely vegetated land	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Urban	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wetland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Woodland and forest	0.0	0.0	4.0	66.4	4.0	66.4
Intertidal sediment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal saltmarsh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rocky shore	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal lagoons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Overall Change	
Area change	Unit change
0.0	0.0
-20.4	-49.6
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
4.0	66.4
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0
0.0	0.0

Off-site	Baseline		Post development Off-site		Off-site Change	
	Existing area	Off-site Existing value	Proposed area	Off site Proposed value	Area change	Offsite Unit change
Habitat group						
Cropland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grassland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Heathland and shrub	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rivers and lakes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sparsely vegetated land	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Urban	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wetland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Woodland and forest	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Intertidal sediment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal saltmarsh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rocky shore	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal lagoons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Combined	Baseline		Combined Post development		Combined change	
	Existing area	Existing value	Proposed area	Proposed value	Proposed area	Proposed value
Habitat group						
Cropland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grassland	10.2	24.8	-10.2	-24.8	-20.4	-49.6
Heathland and shrub	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rivers and lakes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sparsely vegetated land	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Urban	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wetland	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Woodland and forest	0.0	0.0	4.0	66.4	4.0	66.4
Intertidal sediment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal saltmarsh	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Rocky shore	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Coastal lagoons	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Land Opposite Hingham Sports Centre
A-1 Site Habitat Baseline

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A-1 Site Habitat Baseline

Condense / Show Rows

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B-1 Site Hedge Baseline

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B-1 Site Hedge Baseline

B-1 Site Hedge Baseline

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Land Opposite Hingham Sports Centre

B-2 Site Hedge Creation

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